

**Faculty Senate Meeting Bullet Points, February 6, 2018.**

For complete minutes and related files, see: <http://www.facultysenate.vcu.edu/>

**Guest: President of VCU (Michael Rao)**

- Rao's remarks: Rao focused his remarks on VCU's priorities for this academic year, focusing on the undergraduate experience. His top priorities, in no particular order, are (1) the undergraduate experience, (2) research, (3) the VCU medical center, and (4) the budget and economic status.
- Rao noted the importance of Focused Inquiry to the undergraduate experience, and discussed the ongoing update to VCU's general education curriculum, and our need to provide a broad-based learning experience while also preparing VCU's students for their majors and specific careers.
- Rao spoke about the importance of diversity and inclusion, and his commitment to advancing both more rapidly at VCU.
- Rao explained that he spent a great deal of time with the Virginia General Assembly this year. Rao highlighted the fact that VCU's student body, made up largely of in-state students, provides less tuition revenue than at the state's other Tier 3 institutions, which includes a higher percentage of out-of-state students. This situation has placed VCU at a financial disadvantage, which has limited its ability to provide for faculty raises and to set aside funding for other priorities. Rao promised legislators that VCU will look to reallocate resources within its Education & General (E&G) funds.
- Rao noted the construction of new facilities and the ongoing effort to link the medical and Monroe Park campuses.
- Rao explained that another focus this year is to expand VCU's research profile. He noted that VCU is already a national leader in addiction studies, neurological research, cancer treatment, and several additional areas. As a university, we will work to expand our research profile, as well as to prioritize our research specialties, in the future.

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